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REMARKS

This Amendment is a full and timely response to the Office Action dated June 7, 2004. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claim for Priority

It is noted with appreciation that the Action acknowledges receipt of the priority document in support of the claim for foreign priority.

Information Disclosure Statement

It is noted with appreciation that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 8, 2002 has been considered by the Examiner.

Specification

The specification has been reviewed and a number of minor changes made to prepare this application for final printing in view of the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims

Claims 1 to 28 were pending in this application as filed. Claims 1, 2 and 3 and claims 16, 17 and 18 were initially rejected in a rejection under 35 USC 103 based on a Sony reference. Because Sony is the assignee of this application, and the other conditions of 35 USC 103(a) as amended are met, this rejection cannot stand. However, these claims are here canceled without disclaimer or prejudice to their presentation in a continuing application for prompt issuance of the allowable subject matter indicated.

Specifically, claims 4, 5, and 6, each dependent on claim 3 that is in turn dependent on claims 1 and 2, claims 4, 5 and 6 are each amended to include the subject matter of former claims 1, 2 and 3. The base claims are here canceled without disclaimer or prejudice. Original claim 7 is retained dependent on amended, allowable claim 6.

Claim 8 was indicated to be allowable; as filed it was dependent on original claim 2 dependent on original claim 1. Thus, allowable claim 8 is rewritten to include the subject matter

of now canceled claims 1 and 2. Claims 9, 10 and 11 are dependent directed or indirectly on amended, allowable claim 8 and are retained.

Claim 12 was indicated to be allowable; as filed, it was dependent on claim 2 dependent on original claim 1. Thus, allowable claim 12 is rewritten to include the subject matter of now-canceled claims 1 and 2. Claims 13 to 15 are dependent directly or indirectly on amended, allowable claim 12.

Claims 16 to 17 are similarly handled. That is, claims 16, 17 and 18 are canceled without disclaimer or prejudice to their presentation in a continuing application. Claims 19, 20, and 21 are dependent on claim 18, in turn dependent on claims 16 and 17. Thus, each of allowable claims 19, 20, and 21 are amended to include the subject matter of claims 16, 17 and 18. Claim 22 is dependent on claim 21 and is retained.

Each of claims 23 and 27 was indicated to be allowable; each is dependent on claim 17 which in turn is dependent on claim 16. Thus, each of allowable claims 23 and 27 is rejected by including the subject matter of now-canceled claims 16 and 17. Claims 24, 25 and 26 are dependent either directly or indirectly on amended, allowable claim 23, while claims 28, 29 and 30 are dependent on allowable, amended claim 27.

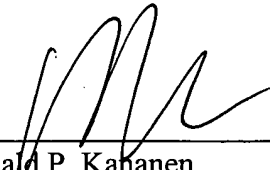
### Conclusion

Claims 1, 2 and 3 and Claims 16, 17 and 18 are here canceled without disclaimer or prejudice to their presentation in a continuing application. Claims 4 to 15 and 19 to 27 are effectively rewritten in independent form to take advantage of the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 19, 20, 21, 23 and 27.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 24, 2004

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DC136862

In the event additional fees are necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 180013 for any such fees; and applicants hereby petition for any needed extension of time.